

To contact one of our Specialist Advisers to discuss in confidence your business and its funding requirements, please call **0161 359 3050**, email **enquiries@a2fnw.co.uk** or visit us at:

www.a2fnw.co.uk

The NW Access to Finance Service is part-funded by European Regional Development Fund.

The European Regional Development Fund in the Northwest

The European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) is making a real difference to people and businesses in the North West. With €755 million to invest between 2007 and 2013, ERDF is enhancing the competitiveness of the region's economy by supporting growth in enterprise and employment.

ERDF in the North West is managed by the Department for Communities and Local Government - for further information visit

www.communities.gov.uk/erdf

The North West **Access to Finance Service**



Provides a free, impartial, and confidential service to small and medium size businesses across the NW region.

Supporting Businesses in the North West to Access Funding for Growth

The NW Access to Finance Service is delivered by an experienced and professional team of Specialist Advisers through face-to-face advice and support, mentoring and events. Access to Finance Specialist Advisers have extensive financial experience, coupled with commercial acumen. Their breadth of knowledge ensures that there is support available to meet the needs of a business in all aspects of accessing finance, whether the requirement is for a debt, equity or other alternative finance solution.

Part-funded by European Regional Development Fund, the NW Access to Finance Service is provided free of charge to qualifying* businesses in the North West region. The service assists businesses with:

- The development of a credible business plan.
- The financial information required to support a funding application.
- Understanding appropriate finance products and options available including debt and equity products.
- Gaining knowledge of appropriate finance providers.
- Understanding of the application processes to access funding.
- Meeting and communicating with potential funders.



Independent and Impartial

The NW Access to Finance service does not take fees or commissions from lenders, investors or the businesses it supports. This means that the service is able to be independent and impartial and ensures the best possible funding options are sourced for a business to consider.

In addition, the service provides support to businesses applying to NW Business Angels, providing an investment readiness support programme, helping businesses prepare to pitch for investment to the NW Business Angel network.

The service is available to help small and medium size businesses to understand the eligibility criteria and application process for both private and public sector finance products. Our expertise covers finance products such as bank finance, invoice discounting, asset finance, commercial mortgages, business angel finance, venture capital, bridging finance, peer lending, grant funding and public sector and alternative sources of finance.

From our established contacts and networks, our Specialist Advisers have comprehensive knowledge of a vast range of finance providers and can help you to identify the most appropriate solutions for your business.

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* To qualify for assistance, businesses must meet the definition of a small to medium size enterprise and be based in the North West of England. Retail businesses are excluded from support and other sector restrictions also apply. Please visit www.a2fnw.co.uk for more details.